

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended and claims 36-60 have been canceled by the present amendment.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to expedite prosecution. No admissions are made by the present amendment and applicants traverse the art rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to be placed in allowable form. Thus, the amendment places the application in condition for allowance and therefore may be entered. And, applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments.

Claim 1 is amended to read as follows:

1. *"Polymer electrolyte for an electrochemical generator, **wherein said polymer electrolyte exhibits a stability voltage higher than 4 volts** and comprises:*

(a) at least one four-branched polymer having a hybrid termination, wherein at least one branch of said four branched polymer is capable of giving rise to cross-linking; with

(b) at least one component selected from the following families:

*(b1) SiO_2 **or** Al_2O_3 or a mixture thereof; and*

*(b2) nano TiO_2 noncoated or coated with an organic material that is compatible with a tetrafunction terminal acryloyl-modified alkylène oxide polymer, the organic material being selected from at least one polyol or at least one polyethylene-polyoxyethylene copolymer **or with an inorganic material selected from SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 .***

Support for amendments may be found throughout the specification. For example, page 9, lines 9-10 recites "The stability voltage of an electrolytic composition according to the invention that contains this polymer is clearly higher than 4 volts." For example, the amendment to (what is now) (b1) is supported in the original claims and in Example 7. For example, the amendment to (what is now) (b2) is supported in the original claims and page 8, lines 20-27. Claim 4 has been amended for editorial purposes.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments after final.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Kono (USPN 6,399,254) (or its equivalent - EP 880,189). Further, claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and/or 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Ishiko (USPN 6,190,804) (or its equivalent EP 923,147). Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Kerr (USPN 7,101,643). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

When using a polymer electrolyte comprising at least one four-branched polymer as defined in (a) and a ceramic such as SiO₂, Al₂O₃ or coated or noncoated TiO₂ particles, the excellent results in terms of conductivity, stability and mechanical strength are obtained.

The presence of such specific oxides (ceramics) results in a chemical bridge being built between the constituting ceramic material of the positive electrode and the polymer electrolyte thus enhancing the electronic conductivity between the positive electrode and the polymer electrolyte.

The use of a ceramic such as SiO₂, Al₂O₃ or coated or noncoated TiO₂ particles also enhances the mechanical strength of the polymer electrolyte. Such an enhancement is not observed in the cited art documents (Kono, Ishino and Kerr).

This specific combination of (a) and (b1) or (b2) is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art documents (Kono, Ishino and Kerr).

Therefore, amended claim 1 should be considered as novel and unobvious over the cited prior art. Thus, the amendment places the application in condition for allowance and therefore may be entered. And, applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and allowance of the present application.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons stated above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and objections, and to allow the present application.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: 20 March 2009

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.D. Boone". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font.

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